MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1964.

District Council Offices,
MASHAM.

H. DIGGLES,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

North Riding of Yorkshire.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Chairman (Councillor H.H. Hardy)

The Vice-Chairman (Councillor T. Reynolds)

and all the members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. H. Diggles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Area Health Offices,
The Wensleydale Secondary Modern School,
LEYBURN, Yorks.

Telephone: Leyburn 2125.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

A. Nunn, C.R.S.H.
Council Offices,
MASHAM, Yorks.

Telephone: Masham 378.

Area Health Office,

LEYBURN.

1965.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

MASHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1964.

In 1964 the state of public health in Masham was very satisfactory. There were no maternal deaths, stillbirths, or deaths from tuberculosis.

The provision of adequate sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the district is satisfactory.

The water supply is now controlled by the Northallerton and Dales Water Board.

During the year further progress was made in housing provision, the six bungalows commenced in 1963 were completed and occupied.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to the Members and Officials of the Council for the help and support I have received from them during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. DIGGLES,

Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	25,995
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population mid-year 1964).	1,620
Population (1931 Census)	2,024
Population (1951 Census)	1,738
Number of Inhabited houses 1964	586
Rateable Value (at 1st April 1964)	£68,336
Product of a penny rate (1st April 1964)	£273.95

(b) VITAL STATISTICS (AS SUPPLIED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL)

	MALES			FEMALES		
	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
LIVE BIRTHS	13	13	-	13	13	-
STILL BIRTHS	-	-	-	-	-	-
INFANT DEATHS						
UNDER 1 YEAR	2	2	-	-	-	-
UNDER 4 WEEKS	2	2	-	-	-	-
UNDER 1 WEEK	2	2	-	-	-	-

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	-	1	1
" " Breast.	-	1	1
" " Uterus.	-	2	2
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms.	1	1	2
Diabetes.	1	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	2	6	8
Coronary Disease, Angina.	2	2	4
Bronchitis.	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea.	-	1	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis.	-	1	1
Other Defined & Ill-defined Diseases.	3	1	4
All other Accidents.	1	-	1
	11	16	27

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which deals with the compulsory removal to a place of safety of persons in need of care and attention.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

Ambulance Facilities.

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their station at Thirsk.

Hospital Services.

Local Hospital accomodation is provided by the Northallerton Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at hospitals under the control of the Ripon and Harrogate Management Committee of the Leeds Regional Hospital Board.

Nursing in the Home.

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery services are under the general direction of the County Council with the day-to-day administration dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee through the District Medical Officer. One district nurse/midwife operates in the area.

Domestic Health Service.

This service is under the general direction of the County Council with the day-to-day administration dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee.

SECTION C.

Water Supplies.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

SECTION D.

Housing.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

SECTION E.

Meat and Other Foods.

Details are to be found in the Public Health Officer's Section.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Notified.	Males	Females	Total
Whooping Cough.	1	2	3
Measles.	-	4	4

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on my second year's work as your Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

Perhaps the principal event of the year was the handing over of operational control of the water undertaking to the Northallerton and The Dales Water Board in mid-April after the completion of the Mossra Lane Reservoir. I am happy to report that the Board's officer is regularly in the district and close liaison is maintained with him to discuss the Public Health aspect of the water supply.

It has been possible to spend much more time on carrying out regular maintenance work at the sewage disposal works and to carry out other small schemes of improvement such as the extension to the pavement at the corner of the Market Place. The former should, eventually, result in the improvement of the effluent from the sewage works and the latter is designed to minimise the chance of loss of life at one of the danger points in town. It is interesting to reflect on the value to public health of two such varied activities.

As the years progress, the extent of the legislation administered by local authorities is extended; the two principal Acts of this year's additions have been a new Housing Act and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. The former is designed to assist the local authority in bringing all suitable houses up to a standard which includes the five amenities of hot water, fixed bath or shower, wash-hand basin, inside lavatory, and proper foodstore, an objective which it is hoped will be achieved within the next 10 years. The latter Act deals with the environment of people working in offices and shops and is designed to ensure that minimum standards of lighting, heating and cleanliness exist, with safety precautions extended. Other Acts, such as the Scrap Metal Dealers Act have their own importance for the proper regulation of human activities.

The presentation of this report gives me the opportunity to express my thanks to the Council, the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk and his staff for the help given to me in the performance of my duties. I would also like to record my appreciation of the conscientious way in which the Council's workman has carried out his duties at all times.

I have, Gentlemen, the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

Arthur Nunn,

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

WATER SUPPLIES

The operational control of the water supplies in the district was eventually handed over to the Northallerton and The Dales Water Board in mid-April, on the commissioning of the new reservoir in Mossra Lane. The Board's officer is regularly in contact to discuss any matters which arise, but on occasions, it is difficult to contact him or leave messages when he is attending to emergencies in other parts of his district.

At the time of handing over the system was comprised of:

Mains owned by the Northallerton & the Dales Water Board	4.
Mains owned by other Statutory Undertakings	2.

Schemes completed during the year.

The new reservoir in Mossra Lane, to hold 90,000 gallons, on the Masham supply, was completed, chlorinated, and commissioned in mid-April.

Details of water supply.

The supply, generally, was sufficient, in the period when it was under the Council's control, on two occasions, however, falling reservoir levels started searches which revealed, on the first occasion, a fracture in the 5" main in Colsterdale and on the second, a blown joint in the supply pipe to a group of bungalows. Such is the nature of the ground formation in much of this district that a considerable time may pass before water from bursts makes itself evident on the surface and other forms of detection of leakages are necessary.

Prior to handing over of the system, all reservoirs were cleaned out and wash-outs and air valves checked and operated, the limestone filter, also, was cleaned out.

Meter readings were continued from January to the end of March, when this duty was taken over by the Water Board. The consumption figures worked out on the same basis as last year, show for that quarter.

Parish.	Estimated Population.	Water Consumed (Galls.per head per day)	
		1963.	Jan-Mar. 1964.
Masham.	900	69	66
Ellingstring.	40	144	148
High Ellington.	30	113	133
Low Ellington.	38	137	155

The probable explanation of the upward movement in the villages is that cattle, spending much more time indoors, drink more water from mains supplies than when outside in the fields.

Water Sampling.

Samples of water were taken from several points in the district with results as follows:-

	Supply.	Probable numbers per 100ml. Coliform Bacilli.	Bact.Coli.(Type 1)
1.	Low Agra.	1	0
2.	High Agra.	0	0
3.	Ellingstring.	0	0
4.	Colsterdale spring.	0	0
5.	Colsterdale spring.	0	0
6.	Masham.	0	0

The purposes of this sampling is listed below.

1. To obtain current information on the old (disused) supply.
2. A check on part of the present supply before chlorination.
3. General check on the Ellingstring supply.
4. & 5. Investigation into possible source for a supply to the new Toc H hostel in Colsterdale.
6. To check on the supply in Masham at a time when the chlorination plant was temporarily out of action.

Contamination of supplies.

No cases of contamination were known to have occurred.

Distribution of Water.

The following numbers of inhabited houses were supplied by service pipes:-

Public Supplies:-	
Northallerton & The Dales Water Board.	511
Other Public Supplies.	7
Private Supplies:-	68

Inspections.

In carrying out the supervision of the water supplies the following visits and inspections were made:-

Masham.	85
Ellingtons.	112
Ellingstring.	48
Fearby.	148
Healey.	10
Ilton.	18
Chlorinator House.	40
Smeltstones Springs.	5
Limestone Filter.	28
Swinton (including reservoir under construction)	61
Colsterdale.	5

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Sewers.

The sewers in the district serve all the dwellings capable of connection at reasonable cost under present conditions. The main problems which exist at present are:-

i) The disposal of wastes from the two dwellings in Ellingstring near the boundary of the Leyburn R.D.C. and dwellings just over the boundary which connect into the culvert leading to the old quarry. Temporary measures have been taken to ensure the harmless disposal of this material until better arrangements can be made. The head of the sewer is at present about 320 yards from the nearest of these premises, but plans to extend the present sewer by 52 yards were in hand. If further development takes place in this part of Ellingstring it may become possible to make more suitable arrangements for sewerage of this area.

ii) The disposal of sewage from the Wellgarth area of Masham, part of which after sedimentation, passes with the remainder, including dairy and malting effluents, directly into the river. 24ft. extension to this outfall is planned, with the approval of the Rivers Board, to prevent pollution of the river bank downstream from the present outfall.

Sewage Works.

Masham: This plant is still not regularly producing an effluent of a satisfactory standard, but the purchase of monorail equipment at a very advantageous price towards the end of the year brought the possibility of greater frequency of tank emptying much nearer. A bulked sample of incoming sewage in December was reported as being twice as strong as domestic sewage and it may well be that when the cause of the high strength is discovered, steps may be possible to produce a better effluent.

Fearby Works: This plant runs very satisfactorily, tests made have given good results.

Ellingstring: The work needed at this plant is proving more difficult than anticipated, but when further operations have been carried out results here should be satisfactory.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service continued under contract, covering the whole of the area with the exception of outlying farms Arrangements are being made as, and when possible to provide a service for the removal, from the remaining isolated farms, of articles of which disposal is more difficult.

The tip in Healey Quarry was operated satisfactorily. A system of crude tipping and incineration is followed, with periodical levelling to provide new tracks for the collection vehicle and to compact the material. Periodic inspections were made, and when rats were found to be present baiting was carried out. 24 visits in all were made.

HOUSING.

The general survey of houses in the district has been commenced this year, with the object of providing an up-to-date picture of the housing in the district. For this record to be of use it must indicate the extent to which the house falls short of the Improvement Standard and this is included. Amendments are made as houses are improved so that when an all dwellings in one area have been inspected, any necessary action can be taken. Generally, owners of houses are willing to improve their property and all possible assistance is given by meeting them before applications are submitted to ensure that no time is wasted by having to defer applications while amendments are discussed. It is good to be able to report an increase in grant applications and completions and though these figures are almost identical there were, at the end of the year 14 properties in respect of which grants had been approved at which the work still needed completion.

Statistics in connection with housing:-

No. of occupied houses in the district.	586
No. of full inspections made.	114
No. of houses closed.	-
No. of houses demolished.	-

Improvement Grants.

No. of visits of inspection and interviews.		53
No. of Grants applied for:	Standard.	9
	Discretionary.	5
No. of houses improved with Grant Aid.		
	Standard.	9
	Discretionary.	6

Council Housing.

The Council has now provided:-

4	Four-bedroom houses.
58	Three-bedroom houses.
18	Two-bedroom bungalows
3	One-bedroom bungalows.

4 two-bedroom bungalows and 2 one-bedroom bungalows were completed in the early part of the year.

44 visits were made to Council dwellings in course of erection and 192 to existing houses for maintenance inspections.

21 of the Council's Leyburn Road houses have suffered from condensation in the outbuilding containing the wash-house and water closet, three had been experimentally treated with different types of material and one completely cured by the fixing of sheets of expanded polystyrene to battens, leaving a small air space to act as insulation. Work had commenced on treating the remainder.

BUILDING BYELAWS

No. of plans submitted to and approved by the Council.	16
No. of visits to works in progress (private works).	22

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The 100% inspection of animals slaughtered for human food has continued during the year, 62 visits were made to the slaughterhouse to inspect:-

Bullocks and Heifers	50
Pigs	58
Sheep	221
Calves	1

Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis.

No cases of either were found during the year.

Meat Condemned.

The following amounts of meat were condemned during the year:-

Sheep carcase and organs.	Fever.	55lbs.
Bullock Head.		14lbs.

Food Premises.

25 visits were made to various food premises during the year, with a further 20 visits seeking details of stocks of Corned Beef at the time of the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak.

RODENT AND INSECT INFESTATION.

Free services are available for domestic infestations and advice is offered to others dealing with farm and business property infestations.

A total of 26 visits were made in respect of rodent infestations.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No. of licensed sites for permanent occupation 3
(of which two are in use)

In addition there is in the summer a certain amount of week-end caravanning and camping. 12 visits were made, some being to the owner of the licence for the site not in operation.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

There are three industrial furnaces in the district, and while no 30 minute observations were made, watch was kept on the amount of smoke produced. On no occasion was anything seen which warranted action, but in one case a regular period of more than normal smoke just before lunch time was dealt with by a discussion with the stoker.

FACTORIES.

The following details on factories are the relevant sections of the table required by the Ministry of Labour to be furnished under section 153(1) of the Factories Act 1961.

1. Inspections.

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(ii) Factories in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	20	20	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced.	3	89 visits to these premises.	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

There were no defects found and no cases were referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Outworkers.

There are no known outworkers in the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

This new Act brought into being minimum standards to be observed where people are employed in the type of premises listed in the title. The majority of the premises concerned were known as they have been the subject of visits under other Acts and for other purposes, and it was considered best to produce a circular letter to all on the register and to make a preliminary visit to each premises to explain the purpose of the Act. The letter invited co-operation when plans were being drawn up for alterations, and in one case the owner called me in to agree the work necessary to bring his premises up to standard. Forty other visits were paid and at the end of the year there were 25 premises on the register, at which a total of 42 males and 29 females were employed.

STREET NAMEPLATES.

A scheme was carried out to affix nameplates to almost every street carrying a separate name. This should assist visitors in finding the address required, but it is considered that only when a numbering scheme is associated can the full benefit be obtained.

MARKET PLACE PAVEMENT EXTENSION.

Traffic entering Masham Market Place from Silver Street has been a source of danger to children and other traffic moving westwards along the northern side, due to lack of visibility. After the discussion of many alternatives it was decided to extend the pavement by 8ft. in both directions and splay this projection back to the existing pavement at suitable angles. This work was completed in late summer and there have been no reports of near accidents since that time.

OTHER VISITS

Over and above the foregoing, the following visits were made:-

Interviews on various matters.	146	Planning.	4
Other Council Property.	18	Flooding.	14
Petroleum Regulations.	5		

Visits in connection with sewerage and drainage were as follows:-

Masham S.D.P.	343
Ejector Station.	3
Fearby S.D.P.	14
Ellingstring S.D.P.	10
General Drainage.	75